

Arlington

MASTER COMPOSTERS

Forty-First Edition

February 2004

The **MASTER COMPOSTER** Program of Arlington is in partnership with Texas to dramatically decrease yard and household waste going to landfills by inspiring and educating our citizens to reduce, recycle, and reuse.

Ray Buckinham — 2003 Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Mr. Ray Buckingham who was recognized at the Christmas luncheon in December as the 2003 Arlington Master Composter Volunteer of the Year. Ray joined the Master Composter Program in September of 1997 with his wife Ginny. Since then, Ray has generously volun-



teered for many special events and has turned an estimated 312 compost piles at the River Legacy Living Science Center. Ray's good work ethic combined with his wonderful attitude and great sense of humor make him a joy to work with. Well-respected by his peers, Ray adds great value to our program. Thanks Ray, for all you do!



Texas Recycles Day

As many of you know, the City of Arlington recognized Texas Recycles Day in November by hosting a computer and electronics collection event. Many Master Composters were there to help with the event which was held at UTA from 9 am to 4 pm. An overwhelming 80 tons of old computers and other electronics were taken to Resource Concepts in Carrollton as a result of the event. According to Resource Concepts, it was a record-breaking event for which they awarded us a trophy made from recycled computer circuit boards. A special thanks to John and Frances Presson, DJ Schoneweis, Diane Benson, Sharon Thorwald, Pete and Wanda Martin and Nancy Hagwood for all their hard work at the event. It was a long day, but it was very worthwhile.

Christmas Parade of Lights

Adorned with over 4,000 lights, the City of Arlington Sanitary Landfill Division's float won the "Rudolph" award for the best use of lights at the City's second annual Christmas Parade of Lights. The theme was Santa's Toy Shop and the float resembled a house decorated for Christmas with live children dressed like



recycled from the landfill. Following Santa's Toy Shop was a Duncan Disposal truck also decorated with thousands of lights which included a friendly reminder for folks to recycle their

Santa's helpers building toys. All materials used to build and decorate the float (except for the lights) were

Christmas trees. The parade was a big success with over 60 entrees.



Jim Glenn of Resource Concepts and Landfill Manager Allen Jones show award for Computer Roundup.



Volunteer Spotlight

We'd like to recognize a very special volunteer who has proven that word-of-mouth is still the best form of advertising. Nancy Hagwood, with endless energy, carries a stack of our flyers in her car at all times. She hands them out everywhere she goes continually spreading word about our program and the benefits of composting. Nancy worked really hard at the Computer Roundup in November where hardly a car passed through that she didn't speak to about our program. She also coordinated all Master Composter volunteer efforts for our booth at the recent Home and Organic Gardening Show with Howard Garrett. Her diligent efforts have not gone unnoticed. Thank you Nancy for everything you do.

Yardwise Classes

Need volunteer hours? Need a compost bin? Mark your calendar for YARDWISE March 25 and April 22. Yardwise is a two-hour class on grasscycling, mulching, composting and green yard care. Each paid registrant will receive a Yardwise booklet, a rain gauge, and a Complete Composter compost bin (\$50 value). These classes are only available to Arlington residents and Arlington Master Composters. The fee for the class is \$15. If you are interested in attending the class or working please contact Lorrie Anderle at 817-459-6778 or anderlel@ci.arlington.tx.us.

2003 Annual Christmas and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

With over 40 in attendance, the annual Christmas luncheon was a huge success. For those who couldn't make it, once again the wonderful atmosphere and hospitality of the staff at the Oasis on Joe Pool Lake added a little something special to the celebration.

In appreciation of all the hard work put in throughout the year by the Master Composters, everyone in attendance received one of our new t-shirts. We also gave away twenty beautiful poinsettias to those with a winning ticket. And what would a Christmas party be without the "left-right" game? Yes, that's RIGHT, this year the RIGHTs went to Washington.

To everyone who joined us, thanks for coming and allowing the City of Arlington say THANKS for being such great volunteers.



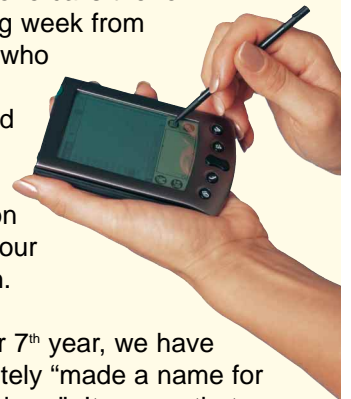
**More pictures
on page 3!**



A Message from the Backyard Compost Coordinator

First of all, I'd like to say welcome to all the new Master Composter interns. I look forward to getting to know you better and hope you will contact me any time you need.

Next, I want to say thanks to all who worked so hard at our booth at the Arlington Home and Organic Gardening Show with Howard Garrett. I received lots of phone calls the following week from folks who had picked up information from our booth.



In our 7th year, we have definitely "made a name for ourselves." It seems that everywhere I go, someone mentions the Master Composter program. This reminds me of a recent conversation I had with one of our volunteers who said "Lorrie, do you ever get made fun of for being a Master Composter?" I laughed and said "of course I do. It goes with the territory." I really do get teased sometimes, but I think it's the name that people find funny because once I explain how great composting is and how great the Master Composters are, most folks really take interest and they never make fun of me again. So wear your name badges high up on your chest and be proud to be an Arlington Master Composter.

— Lorrie

Welcome new Master Composters

Over 20 folks braved the snow on February 14 to attend our annual Master Composter workshop. Thank you to everyone who joined us especially our instructors, Jane Borland and Jackie Mormon; and to

Diane Benson and Sharon Thorwald who also helped out with the class.

At right: Sharon Thorwald, Diane Benson, Jane Borland and Jackie Mormon playing in the snow prior to the Master Composter Workshop.



Wormshop

Just a reminder to composters old and new that our annual Wormshop is coming up. We will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 11 at the Municipal Office Tower located at 201 E. Abram Street. Please go to the 2nd floor where we'll join Mr. Hugh Ross for his enlightening vermicomposting presentation.

For those interested in starting a worm compost bin, we'll provide free worms but please bring your own container (a bucket or Rubbermaid tub). We'll also provide the necessary bedding materials and a drill to make air holes so your worms can breathe.

Leaf Recycling Update

With less than one month to go, over 500 tons of leaves have already been collected from our leaf recycling drop off sites since November 1. In only its second year, this voluntary program is overwhelmingly popular. More and more Arlington residents are demonstrating their environmental awareness by participating in the City's solid waste reduction programs such as leaf recycling, curbside recycling and the computer roundup. Speaking of leaves... **anyone interested in helping de-bag leaves at the landfill should contact Lorrie Anderle at 817-459-6778.**



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